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librarian, had pasted the following memorandum in the book : —

“The autograph in this volume must be that of the Rev. Samuel Mather, of Windsor, Connecticut, the eldest son of Timothy, and grandson of Richard Mather; born, 5th of September, 1651; graduated at Harvard College, 1671; ordained, 1682; and died, 18th of March, 1728. The date, apparently 1636, is undoubtedly 1686, a part of the figure 8 being effaced. — J. A., Dec. 26, 1866.”

The Sermons in the volume bear date 1686–1688.

The thanks of the Society were returned to Mr. Colton for the volume.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, February 14th, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; Colonel ASPINWALL, the senior Vice-President (in the absence of the President), in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the City of Boston; the American Numismatic and Archæological Society; the American Philosophical Society; the Boston Athenæum; the Essex Institute; the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec; the New-England Historic-Genealogical Society; the New-Hampshire Historical Society; the New-Jersey Historical Society; Oberlausitzische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Görlitz; the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History;

the Trustees of Oberlin College; the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston; the United-States Sanitary Commission; the Editors of the "Advocate"; the Proprietors of the "Heraldic Journal"; the Publishers of the "Savannah Daily Republican"; John Appleton, M.D.; Brevet Major-General J. G. Barnard; Henry M. Benedict, Esq.; Rev. Dorus Clarke; Thomas J. De Voe, Esq.; Mr. Seth Goldsmith; J. H. Hickcox, Esq.; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Rev. William S. Perry; William F. Poole, Esq.; Colonel Samuel P. Simpson, Adjutant-General of Missouri; Adjutant-General William H. H. Terrell, of Indiana; Mr. Amos Trask; and from Messrs. Amory, W. G. Brooks, Deane, Denny, Ellis, Green, C. Robbins, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from E. A. Dalrymple, Corresponding Secretary of the Maryland Historical Society, communicating some resolutions in commemoration of our late associate, Jared Sparks, which had been passed by the Maryland Historical Society on the 3d of January last.

The President read a letter, dated "Washington, February 2d, 1867," written by A. R. Spofford, the Librarian of Congress, and addressed to Mr. Deane, soliciting the influence of gentlemen connected with this Society, to aid in securing the literary treasures of Colonel Peter Force for the library of Congress. The letter was accompanied by a report on the library of Colonel Force, by Mr. Spofford, which spoke in high terms of the collection, saying, that its commercial value probably far exceeded the price at which the library

could now be purchased by Congress, viz., a hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Spofford hoped that gentlemen would be willing to unite in a petition to Congress to purchase it.

After remarks by Messrs. Frothingham, Deane, Folsom, Amory, Aspinwall, and Hedge, the subject was referred to the Standing Committee, with full power.

Dr. ROBBINS referred to the Dunster manuscript volume, presented to the Society by the President at the last meeting, saying that he had noticed in it a quotation of the celebrated line of George Herbert, —

“Religion stands a tiptoe in our land,” —

which had been made the subject of remarks by Mr. Waterston at the same meeting; but what was especially noticeable was an error of Dunster in giving the Christian name of this poet. His words are, “The Propheticall verses of Mr. *John* Harbert, Concerning America.”

Mr. FROTHINGHAM said he had recently seen this line of Herbert, with a number of the verses following it, from the same poem, “The Church Militant,” in a little duodecimo volume, entitled “The English Empire in America, or a Prospect of His Majesties Dominions in the West Indies,” of date 1685, by “R. B.” (Robert Burton).

Mr. WATERSTON exhibited a beautifully executed portrait in pencil, by Major André, of Miss Margaret Shippen, of Philadelphia, afterwards the wife of Benedict Arnold. The head-dress in the picture is arranged in that peculiarly elevated style which was characteristic of

the time, though perhaps in an exaggerated degree ; and members remarked, that it somewhat resembled the head-dress of a lady in a picture painted by André, "to exhibit the proper mode of dressing the head for the *Mischianza*:" a fac-simile of which, in the "American Historical and Literary Curiosities," edited by John Jay Smith and John F. Watson, was exhibited at the meeting.

Mr. Waterston accompanied the exhibition of the picture, which he said belonged to Mr. Edward Shippen, of Philadelphia, with a relation of some interesting incidents in the life of Mrs. Arnold, and in the career of André.

Dr. BIGELOW referred to the fact, which he supposed was well known to the members, that, on the removal of the remains of André to England, in 1821, it was found, that the roots of a tree, which had been planted over the grave, had grown around and completely encased the skull.

Reference having been made to the personal accomplishments of André, Mr. FROTHINGHAM said he remembered a remark of an old soldier, who had stood sentinel at the door of the room in which André was confined, that "he was the handsomest man he ever laid eyes on."

Mr. WHITNEY communicated to the Society a gift from Dr. John E. Tyler, of the McLean Asylum, Somerville, consisting of Governor Bernard's Fast Proclamation for 1763 ; it being the copy sent to the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman, of Westborough, and read by him from the pulpit.

Mr. Whitney also communicated from Dr. Tyler several manuscript sermons of Mr. Parkman's; and a volume containing notes of sermons preached by a number of clergymen during the years 1718, 1719, and 1720, while Mr. Parkman was in college.

The thanks of the Society were voted Dr. Tyler for this acceptable gift.

Mr. SIBLEY stated, that there were, in the Library of the Antiquarian Society at Worcester, a number of volumes of the manuscript diary of the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman.

Mr. DEANE called the attention of members to a volume of "Monumental Memorials of the Appleton Family," prepared by our Assistant-Librarian, Dr. John Appleton, by whom the volume was presented to the Society. Among the Memorials in the volume, is an engraving of the helmet and armor of Sir Isaac Appleton (an older brother of Samuel Appleton, the emigrant to New England), which, till within a few years, hung over his tomb in the chancel of the church at Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, England.

Colonel ASPINWALL remarked, that he visited Little Waldingfield many years since (in 1819), in company with the late Ebenezer Appleton; and he remembered seeing this helmet and armor suspended in the chancel of the church, over the Appleton tomb.